

***Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services
Virginia Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Certification Program***

FEE INCREASE NOTICE

January 24, 2012

Federally Mandated Program Lacks Funding; Changes in Fee Structure Necessary

Virginia's certification program for laboratories performing tests under the federally mandated Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is designed to meet the needs of its customers by ensuring compliance with the federal law. DCLS communicated in January of 2011 that increased fees would be phased in over a two year period. With a comprehensive program certifying about 160 laboratories, the Division of Consolidated Laboratories (DCLS) has worked hard to provide high quality service at a very low cost. However, with the reality of reduced budgets DCLS cannot continue to financially subsidize this program.

The following fee structure will be implemented immediately:

2012 New Fee Structure

Microbiology Testing:

- 1-2 methods \$600
- 3-5 methods \$700
- 6 or more methods \$800

Inorganic Chemistry (non-metals) Testing:

- 1-2 methods \$650
- 3-5 methods \$850
- 6-8 methods \$1050
- 9 or more methods \$1250

Inorganic Chemistry (metals) Testing:

- 1-2 methods \$1000
- 3-5 methods \$1250
- 6 or more methods \$1400

Organic Chemistry Testing:

- 1-2 methods \$1050
- 3-5 methods \$1250
- 6-8 methods \$1450
- 9 or more methods \$1650

Radiochemistry Testing:

- 1-2 methods \$1100
- 3-5 methods \$1300
- 6 or more methods \$1500

Asbestos Testing:

- 1-2 methods \$900
- 3-5 methods \$1100
- More than 6 methods \$1300

These fees will be reflected in your March 2012 billing invoice.

Why does DCLS need to change the fee structure?

The 2011 fee increase only paid for 60 % of operating costs to support the certification program. Given the current economic reality in state budgets, DCLS cannot afford to continue to fund the cost of the federally mandated certification program.

This comprehensive certification program requires periodic inspections by EPA approved Certification Officers. As you are aware, certification includes on site audits, monitoring of laboratory proficiency testing, monitoring and approval of corrective actions required in system failures, and monitoring and approval of key lab personnel, instrumentation, and drinking water methods.

Changes to fee structures are unsettling and we know everyone struggles with budgetary constraints in their own organizations. We understand you will have concerns and are more than happy to discuss this matter further. If you have questions please feel free to contact your Certification Officer at (804)648-4480 or Lab_Cert@dgs.virginia.gov.

As DCLS is dedicated to providing programs to protect the public's health, we are also strongly committed to working closely with each of our customers in order to provide the highest quality service that meets their needs. We look forward to continuing to work with each of your laboratories in the coming year!

Thank you.